

CLAIMS

1. A strip for safeguarding a document, comprising a support on which there is formed in the longitudinal direction of the strip an alternation of generally metallised regions and generally transparent regions, said alternation being capable of establishing a contrast on a scale identified as global at the level of the document to be safeguarded in such a way as to constitute protection against reproduction of the documents with which the strip will be associated, characterised in that the strip also comprises optically active elements in association with the generally metallised regions and/or the generally transparent regions of the strip to produce an optical effect on a scale identified as detail at the level of the document to be safeguarded, said optical effect making it possible to constitute a recognisable sign for identifying said document.

2. A document safeguard strip according to the preceding claim characterised in that said optical effect established on said detail scale is a contrast.

3. A document safeguard strip according to one of the preceding claims characterised in that said optical effect established on said detail scale is a visual effect dependent on the angles of illumination and/or observation of the strip.

4. A document safeguard strip according to one of the preceding claims characterised in that said generally transparent regions of the strip are associated with a varnish producing a glossy effect visible to the naked eye.

5. A document safeguard strip according to one of the preceding claims characterised in that said optically active elements comprise optically active structures formed from a metallisation.

6. A document safeguard strip according to one of the preceding claims characterised in that said optically active elements comprise optically variable elements.

7. A document safeguard strip according to one of the preceding claims characterised in that at least some of said optically active structures comprise one or more of the following safeguard elements:

- zone comprising diffraction lines,
- purely reflective metallised zone,
- zone comprising a diffraction mat,
- zone comprising a hologram,
- demetallised zone of a generally metallised region,
- zone bearing printing, and
- metallised zone of a generally transparent region.

8. A document safeguard strip according to the preceding claim characterised in that at least some of said optically active structures comprise different zones of which some comprise at least one of said safeguard elements.

9. A document safeguard strip according to the preceding claim characterised in that at least some of said zones are of a sufficiently small dimension as to not be immediately perceptible to the naked eye.

10. A document safeguard strip according to one of the preceding claims characterised in that at least some of said optically active elements are associated with generally metallised regions.

11. A document safeguard strip according to the preceding claim characterised in that said optically active elements comprise a diffraction mat integrated into a diffractive metallised region.

12. A document safeguard strip according to claim 10 characterised in that said optically active elements comprise purely reflective metallised regions.

13. A document safeguard strip according to the preceding claim characterised in that said optically active elements comprise purely reflective metallised regions which, in the longitudinal direction of the strip, are disposed on respective sides of at least some of said generally metallised regions of the strip, said metallised regions being generally diffractive regions.

14. A document safeguard strip according to the preceding claim characterised in that for each generally metallised and diffractive region, on respective sides of which are disposed purely reflective metallised regions, said purely reflective regions are disposed in immediately adjacent relationship with said generally metallised and diffractive region.

15. A document safeguard strip according to claim 13 characterised in that for each generally metallised and diffractive region, on respective sides of which are disposed purely reflective metallised regions, said purely reflective regions are disposed in such a way as to provide in the longitudinal direction of the strip an interval between said purely reflective region and said generally metallised and diffractive region.

16. A document safeguard strip according to the preceding claim characterised in that said interval is transparent.

17. A document safeguard strip according to one of the preceding claims characterised in that at least some of said optically active elements are associated with generally transparent regions.

18. A document safeguard strip according to the preceding claim in combination with claim 12 characterised in that said optically active

elements comprise purely reflective metallised regions which, in the longitudinal direction of the strip, are disposed on respective sides of at least some of said generally transparent regions of the strip.

19. A document safeguard strip according to the preceding claim characterised in that for each generally transparent region on respective sides of which are disposed purely reflective metallised regions, said purely reflective regions are disposed in immediately adjacent relationship with said generally transparent region.

20. A document safeguard strip according to claim 18 characterised in that for each generally transparent region on respective sides of which are disposed purely reflective metallised regions, said purely reflective regions are disposed in such a way as to provide in the longitudinal direction of the strip an interval between said purely reflective region and said generally transparent region.

21. A document safeguard strip according to the preceding claim characterised in that said interval is:

- an interval comprising metallised and diffractive zones, and/or
- an interval comprising printed zones, and/or
- an interval comprising a diffraction mat, and/or
- an interval comprising a hologram.

22. A document safeguard strip according to one of the preceding claims characterised in that said optically active elements are associated in register relationship with the generally metallised regions and/or the generally transparent regions of the strip.

23. A document safeguard strip according to one of the preceding claims characterised in that the strip is also associated with luminescent or absorbent motifs.

24. A document safeguard strip according to the preceding claim characterised in that said luminescent or absorbent motifs are printed in overlapping relationship with the strip.

25. A document safeguard strip according to the preceding claim characterised in that said printing is effected in at least partially overlapping relationship with generally metallised regions of the strip.

26. A document safeguard strip according to claim 24 characterised in that said printing is effected in at least partially overlapping relationship with generally transparent regions of the strip.

27. A document safeguard strip according to claim 23 characterised in that said luminescent or absorbent motifs are integrated in the interior of the strip.

28. A security document incorporating a strip according to one of the preceding claims.